

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 EUR-10 AF-04 NEA-06 ARA-10

EA-13 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 SPC-01

DRC-01 /079 W

----- 096106

P R 141633Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1202

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0316

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG APER UNIDO US

SUBJ: UNIDO - SENIOR POSTS

REF: VIENNA 8240 OCTOBER 5, 1973

SUMMARY: FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON UNIDO D-2 POSTS HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF WHEN DECISIONS THEREON MIGHT BE MADE AND HOW US NOMINATIONS WILL EVENTUALLY FARE. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT CONSIDER REPRESENTATION AND EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN NEW YORK SECRETARIAT, ATTEMPTING ALSO TO CLARIFY WHETHER A-R ASSERTION THAT HE MUST ENGAGE IN EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH SYG BEFORE ACTING TO FILL SENIOR POSTS ACTUALLY REFLECTS NEW YORK REQUIREMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SINCE DISCUSSION WITH ABDEL-RAHMAN REPORTED REFTEL I HAVE HAD TWO FURTHER OCCASIONS TO RAISE QUESTION OF UNIDO SENIOR POSTS WITH EX. DIRECTOR, THE MORE RECENT BEING ON JAN. 10 PRIOR TO ABDEL-RAHMAN'S DEPARTURE FOR ALMOST THREE WEEK TRIP TO GENEVA, NEW YORK AND HAVANA.

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2. AT JAN. 10 MEETING, I FIRST ADDRESSED FAILURE OF

ACABQ AND FIFTH COMMITTEE TO ENDORSE SYG'S PROPOSAL FOR ASG DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ASKED A-4 WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HE NOW FORESAW HAPPENING BY WAY OF MOVING TO BRING A DEPUTY INTO THE ORGANIZATION E.G. BY USING ONE OF HIS D-2 LEVEL POSITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE, A-R REPLIED THAT HE FORESAW NOTHING HAPPENING. WHILE STRONGLY OF THE VIEW THAT UNIDO NEEDED A DEPUTY EX. DIRECTOR (PARA 2 REFTL) HE SAW NO GROUND FOR ACTION ON THE POST. IN ANY CASE, HE WAS OPPOSED TO USING ONE OF HIS D-2 POSITIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE, ASSERTING IN THIS CONNECTION THAT OF ALL THE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS IN THE UN, UNIDO HAD THE LOWEST PROPORTION OF D-2 POSTS TO THE REST OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF. HE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE ACABQ'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS QUESTION, OBSERVING THAT THE ISSUE HAD BEEN PLAYED AROUND WITH FOR SOME TWO YEARS TO NO PURPOSE. IN FACT, HE INTENDED "TO CLOSE THIS PARTICULAR CHAPTER" BY SENDING A LETTER TO THE SYG EXPRESSING HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE OUTCOME OF THIS ENDEAVOR. I SUGGESTED, INTER ALIA, THAT THE OUTCOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF DURING THIS PERIOD THE EX. DIRECTOR HIMSELF HAD PROVIDED MORE VIGOROUS PUBLIC LEADERSHIP ON THE PROBLEM, E.G. DURING IDB CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL.

3. I THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO THE QUESTION OF THE US NOMINATIONS FOR THE D-2 POSTS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY AMERICANS AND STRONGLY EXPRESSED OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LACK OF ANY MOVEMENT ON THIS QUESTION, OBSERVING THAT, WITH THE SITUATION CONCERNING SENIOR POSTS PRESUMABLY SOMEWHAT CLARIFIED AS A RESULT OF THE DISPOSITION FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE OF THE DEPUTY EXDIR PROBLEM, THE WAY WAS NOW OPEN FOR QUICK DECISIONS. ABDEL-RAHMAN'S RESPONSE WAS THAT WHILE THREE D-2 POSITIONS HAD TO BE FILLED (I.E. ISI, ADMINISTRATION AND THE POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY ERIC WARD--PARA 5 VIENNA 7398), VARIOUS CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UNIDO'S SENIOR POSTS HAD FIRST TO BE EXAMINED WITH THE SYG. IN FACT, HE HAD RECENTLY ADDRESSED A LETTER ON THIS SUBJECT TO WALDHEIM AND HOPED TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM DURING HIS FORTHCOMING NEW YORK VISIT. (WE HAD

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PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED BY ANOTHER SECRETARIAT SOURCE THAT ABDEL-RAHMAN HAD DISPATCHED SUCH COMMUNICATION TO WALDHEIM ACCOMPANIED BY LENGTHY ANNEXES WHICH APPARENTLY EXAMINE VARIOUS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF ACHIEVING APPROPRIATE GEOGRAPHIC OR POSSIBLY GROUP DISTRIBUTION OF SENIOR POSTS). I RECALLED THAT AS FAR BACK AS MAY 1973 ABDEL-RAHMAN FELT DECISIONS HAD TO BE DELAYED PENDING DISCUSSION WITH THE SYG IN GENEVA IN JULY (VIENNA

3887 MAY 11, 1973); THAT THE SAME EXPLANATION FOR LACK OF ACTION HAD BEEN GIVEN IN OCTOBER (REFTEL) AND THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE AN ENDLESS PROCESS. ABDEL-RAHMAN'S RESPONSE WAS THAT THE CLAIMS OF OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES FOR SENIOR UNIDO POSTS WERE BECOMING MORE INSISTENT AND HAD TO BE GIVEN ATTENTION (A-R HAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED JAPAN, PRC AND GDR IN THIS RESPECT); THAT HE WISHED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH NEW YORK BEFORE MAKING ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPOINTMENTS; AND THAT HE REGRETTED HE HAD BEEN UNABLE EITHER DURING THE SUMMER OR IN OCTOBER TO GET WALDHEIM OR DAVIDSON TO FOCUS ON THIS PROBLEM. I AGAIN VOICED OUR DISPLEASURE WITH HAVING THIS MATTER SO DRAGGED OUT AND REMINDED ABDEL-RAHMAN OF OUR POSITION THAT TWO SENIOR POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FILLED BY AMERICANS. IN THIS CONNECTION I NOTED THAT HE WAS NOW APPARENTLY THINKING OF FILLING THE D-2 SLOT PREVIOUSLY HELD BY WARD AND ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT NOMINATIONS FOR THAT POSITION. AFTER SOME HEMMING AND HAWING ABDEL-RAHMAN SAID HE WOULD ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET "ADVERTISED" TO OTHER MISSIONS AN INTENTION TO FILL THE POST AND HAD NOT YET DEFINED IN HIS OWN MIND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT WOULD DEVOLVE ON IT.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY OTHER SECRETARIAT SOURCE THAT ABDEL-RAHMAN HAS RECOMMENDED TO NEW YORK EXTENSION OF QUIJANO-CABALLERO'S APPOINTMENT FOR "OVER ONE YEAR". QUIJANO'S PRESENT APPOINTMENT EXPIRES END OF FEBRUARY.

5. COMMENT: MOTIVES FOR CONTINUED STALLING BY ABDEL-RAHMAN UNCLEAR. OUR OWN GUESS IS THAT ABDEL-RAHMAN DOES NOT WISH OR FEELS UNABLE TO HAVE US CONTINUE HOLDING
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TWO D-2 POSTS AND IS DELAYING
LONG AS
POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SET UP SITUATION IN WHICH WE WOULD BE "HAPPY" TO EMERGE WITH ONE SENIOR POSITION. WE SUGGEST THAT USUN ATTEMPT OBTAIN FROM DAVIDSON OR OTHER SUITABLE NY SECRETARIAT SOURCE MORE INFORMATION ON CONSIDERATIONS ADDRESSED IN A-R'S RECENT LETTER TO SYG. SINCE SEVERAL GO-AROUNDS WITH A-R HAVE BEEN WITHOUT RESULT, SUGGEST DEPT CONSIDER AS NEXT STEP VIGOROUS REPRESENTATION AND EXPRESSION OF DISSATISFACTION ALSO AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN NEW YORK SECRETARIAT. WE MIGHT ALSO ENDEAVOR TO CLARIFY WHETHER A-R ASSERTION, THAT HE NOT IN A POSITION TO ACT ON PRESENTLY VACANT SENIOR POSTS WITHOUT EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION WITH SGY, ACTUALLY REFLECTS NEW YORK REQUIREMENTS. STIBRAVY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA00316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740142/aaaabnuh.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: VIENNA 8240 OCTOBER 5, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <11 APR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNIDO - SENIOR POSTS
TAGS: AORG, APER, US, UNIDO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005